

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 02236 041955Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 /047 W  
-----050227Z 061815 /70

R 041803Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5380  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 02236

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE UR US UK FR  
SUBJECT: ALLIED FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 25310; (B) USBER 358

1. SHOULD THE SOVIETS EVER DECIDE TO INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF ALLIED FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN IT WOULD NOT BE BECAUSE OF ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THEIR PART AS TO THE NATURE OR FREQUENCY OF THOSE TOURS. THE EMBASSY THUS AGREES THAT IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO TRY TO CORRECT ABRASIMOV'S ARITHMETIC OR TO MAKE A FORMAL APPROACH WHICH COULD SUGGEST THAT WE WERE READY TO DISCUSS THE ALLIED TOURS IN EAST BERLIN.

2. ASIDE FROM THE EXAGGERATION OF QUANTITIES, HOWEVER, ABRASIMOV ALSO ALLEGED THAT US FLAG TOURS WERE PHOTOGRAPHING ALL PEOPLE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THIS ACCUSATION OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST ONE OF THE FOUR OCCUPYING POWERS IS  
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IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL SOVIET COMPLAINT, MADE IN CONNECTION WITH EXFILTRATION CASES, THAT ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE VIOLATING GDR LAWS.

3. GIVEN THE SOVIET PENCHANT FOR CLAIMING THAT FAILURE TO REFUTE A CHARGE IS TANTAMOUNT TO ADMITTING ITS TRUTH, WE CAN SEE SOME MERIT IN DENYING THIS

ASPECT OF ABRASIMOV'S ALLEGATIONS. WHILE SUCH A DENIAL SHOULD NOT TAKE THE FORM OF A FORMAL DEMARCHE, THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES WHILE THE US IS IN THE CHAIR DURING FEBRUARY FOR THE US POLAD TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT WITH KHOTULEV. THE POLAD MIGHT SIMPLY NOTE AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS, OR PERHAPS AT A SOCIAL OCCASION, THAT AMBASSADOR WRIGHT HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR STOESEL OF ABRASIMOV'S REMARKS, THEN ADD THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH TO THE STATEMENT THAT US FLAG TOURS ARE PHOTOGRAPHING THE EMBASSY.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SUCH AN APPROACH.  
STOESEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN ACCESS, TOURISM, ESPIONAGE, VISITS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN02236  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770041-0876  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 25310, 77 USBERLIN 358  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLIED FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, GC, UR, US, UK, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009